

REMARKS

The Examiner has required that the present application be restricted, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, to one of the following three groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-38, drawn to method of promoting remyelination of nerve cells;

Group II: Claims 39-61, drawn to a combination therapy comprising a compound and an anti-inflammatory agent; and

Group III: Claims 62-89, drawn to a method of reversing paralysis in a subject with demyelinating disease.

Further, the Examiner has required election of each of the following species:

(1) a single disclosed species of a compound;

(2) a single disclosed species of an anti-inflammatory agent or immunosuppressant; and

(3) a single disclosed species of a condition which demyelinates cells.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the invention defined by the Examiner as Group 1, claims 1-38, drawn to method of promoting remyelination of nerve cells. Further, Applicants elect the following species: (1) the compound represented by formula IC wherein R^x is hydroxy described at page 5, lines 15-21 of the specification; (2) prednisone as an anti-inflammatory agent; and (3) multiple sclerosis as a condition which demyelinates cells. It is believed that claims 5-13 and 23-38 are readable upon the elected species.

Applicants advise that the art directed to remyelination is not so great, thus, it would not impose serious burden on the Examiner to search or review the art relating to all species. It is respectfully submitted that all of the species are closely related such that it would not be burdensome for the Office to search the art relating to the presently claimed invention.

Applicants note that upon the allowance of subject matter directed to the elected species, the non-elected species should be searched and considered on the merits as well. Applicants respectfully request that all nonelected compounds be examined subsequently in the present application.

Applicants have no intention of abandoning any non-elected subject matter. The election has been made without prejudice or disclaimer to any of the non-elected subject

matter, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any of the non-elected subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit favorable consideration of the above response. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-452-7932, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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